



THE TOP END
FIRST NATIONS IMMERSIONS
HANDOUT

Beaumaris Secondary College

Travel Dates: Sunday, 21st - Saturday, 27th June 2026

redearth.edu.au

Connecting with First Nations Homelands



“Our students will connect and learn from the custodians of the oldest surviving culture in the world.

They will give their time & passion, and bring back a rich understanding of First Nations People.”

For the first time, Beaumaris Secondary College is giving students the chance to travel to the remote First Nations homelands of The Top End.

Students will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with First Nations People living on their own land who have maintained a deep connection to their culture and history. They will learn from Elders and Traditional Owners, and play with young First Nations children eager for a window to the outside world.

The group will stay in safe areas on privately held First Nations land, not accessible outside of this setting. They will learn, make, gather, eat, give, grow and connect with Traditional Owners and First Nations People.



What makes Red Earth a great partner for schools?



Operating since 2011 and Trusted by 100+ schools



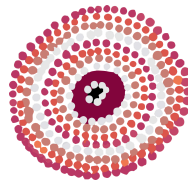
Our own programs, using our connections. We're *not* a travel agent



Working with young people is all we do



15 full-timers with 60 seasonal team members



Partnered with 40+ homelands for unique experiences



Specialists in Large Group programs





THE TOP END Homeland Spirit SAMPLE ITINERARY

The Top End



Itineraries are subject to change. We provide a final itinerary a week before your immersion which considers factors such as weather, Homeland availability and road accesses which may have changed right before your travel. After receiving a final itinerary please know that changes during immersion can be common due to similar factors.

Banatjarl & Nitmiluk (7 Days HS)

A service learning project is an option in all itineraries.

Day 1 - The Journey Begins

- ☉ Land in Darwin and be greeted by your Red Earth leader
- ☉ Travel to Nitmiluk National Park
- ☉ Set up camp
- ☉ Sunset hike to lookout point, overlooking the spectacular gorge

Days 2-5 - Banatjarl Homeland

- ☉ Explore the incredible Katherine Gorge with its famous waterholes and rock art
- ☉ Bus to Banatjarl Homeland
- ☉ Welcome to Country ceremony
- ☉ Walk through the Bush Medicine Garden with the Traditional Owners and prepare a small takeaway jar of your own (women)
- ☉ Walk to important cultural sites on the Homeland and hear about the stories that shaped the Country (men)
- ☉ Learn about the collection, preparation and dying of pandanus leaves and practice weaving techniques with the local community (women)
- ☉ Make traditional tools like spears and clapsticks with the community Elders (men)
- ☉ Forage for some bush tucker - fishing for Barramundi in the river
- ☉ Traditional cooking, including Kangaroo tail and damper making
- ☉ Cool off in a nearby waterhole
- ☉ Dreamtime stories around the campfire
- ☉ Nightly reflections on the immersion

Day 6 - Litchfield National Park

- ☉ Bus to Litchfield NP
- ☉ Explore the natural beauty of Florence Falls
- ☉ Final reflection and debrief

Day 7 - Return Home

- ☉ Stop by and learn about the impressive century-old Magnetic Termite Mounds
- ☉ Drive back to Darwin and fly home

Travel Cost & Terms

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Travel Dates: Sunday, 21st - Saturday, 27th June 2026

Length of stay: 7 days, 6 nights

Staff: 2 Red Earth staff, 2 School Staff

Fees: TBC pp + flights

Info Night: Tuesday, 18th November 2025 at 6:00 pm

Register online: Click this [link](#) to register

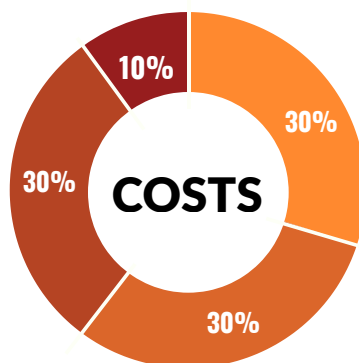
BREAKDOWN OF OPERATIONAL COSTS

10% Fixed Costs

Money that goes back into Red Earth to keep the social enterprise going

30% Wages and Food

We supply three healthy meals a day plus snacks, as well as all of the equipment needed to make the immersion, is comfortable and safe. The immersion will be led by 2 qualified Red Earth staff and accompanied by at least 2 school staff.



30% Homelands

A key aspect of our mission is to enable Traditional Owners to make money on their land without losing their connection to Country. Traditional Owners tell their stories with pride and build meaningful connections with your group. This also makes Homelands more sustainable for future generations.



30% Transport

Approximately 30% of this goes directly to transport including buses, support vehicles and fuel. The remoteness of our partner communities and Homelands makes these costs a necessity.



Nitmiluk National Park



Safety is our number one priority, and as such we have devoted an entire section of our website to it - <https://www.redearth.edu.au/safety/>

- 🌀 We stay in safe, fenced-off areas on private Homelands away from the centres of towns
- 🌀 There will be at least two Red Earth team members and two school staff accompanying the group, all of whom have been briefed on the dangers of the area
- 🌀 Immersion Leaders are professionally trained and certified in remote area first-aid, 4WD off-road driving, and hold bronze medallions in life-saving for swimming activities
- 🌀 A remote first-aid kit, satellite device, emergency location beacon, and 4WD vehicle accompany the group
- 🌀 Most importantly, our partner Traditional Owners and Elders will be guiding all cultural activities and community projects with their wealth of local knowledge
- 🌀 A safety briefing is held each morning to remind students of the potential dangers involved in the day's activities and locations
- 🌀 All safety equipment will be provided for use on community projects
- 🌀 All communities have medical centres nearby with healthcare professionals on call 24/7 in case of emergencies
- 🌀 For life-threatening emergencies, operations are passed on to emergency services and the Royal Flying Doctors Service which operates in the area



FAQs

- 🕒 **How do Elders and Traditional Owners feel about people coming onto their land? Will we be intruding?** We are an organisation driven by our First Nations partners in the Homelands of remote Australia. Our mission is to give First Nations people the help they need if they wish to welcome and open the hearts of young Australians to their country, culture, and way of life. We only make our resources available if we're asked to help. Traditional Owners are the ones that decide if and when people should come onto their land, not us.
- 🕒 **What amenities are available? Will there be showers and bathrooms?** There are flushing or drop toilets everywhere we go. Most of our partner Homelands have shower facilities and swim spots which are perfect for scrubbing up, but you may have to go a few nights without. The amenities will be basic, but this is definitely not a bush survival camp so we will make sure you feel comfortable and safe.
- 🕒 **What food will be available?** While there will be opportunities for the group to forage bush foods, there will be three fresh food deliveries throughout the immersion with a focus on big healthy meals. We cater for every kind of dietary requirement and expect students and staff to participate in the preparation of food.
- 🕒 **Are there fundraising initiatives for the Homelands?** An important part of Red Earth's mission is to help create sustainable Homelands so that Traditional Owners can live on their ancestral land. Elders tell us their vision for their Homeland and the type of community investment and projects they would like help with, and students then fundraise towards this. Most schools raise between \$80-150 per student; ask your Relationship Manager for more information.
- 🕒 **What is the pre-departure program like?** Red Earth takes its responsibility to ensure that each person attending an immersion gives, grows and leads very seriously. We design a pre-departure program tailored for your specific region and itinerary and will meet with the group twice in the lead-up to departure to ensure everyone is prepared for the journey ahead.
- 🕒 **Will we be safe?** We take safety very seriously, and it informs every aspect of an immersion. You can read more about our approach to safety on our website at <https://www.redearth.edu.au/safety/>
- 🕒 **Could there be variations to our itinerary?** Changes to your proposed itinerary and activities are likely and part of travelling to remote First Nations communities. The availability of our partner Homelands may change for practical or cultural reasons, but conversations and personal connection with Traditional Owners and their families are at the heart of all Red Earth immersions. Our strong network of partner Homelands means we can guarantee an authentic experience with deep connections regardless of where your group travels.



Florence Falls



Group Size

Minimum 20 paying participants, with maximum capacity per group: Top End- 28, Cape York- 29, Lake Mungo- 29, Central Australia- 33 (including teachers)

School Staff

2 school staff may travel free of charge. Additional staff may be added at the student price. Any flight prices quoted will include additional costs for travelling teachers.

Insurance

Staff and students may be covered by your school's insurance policy, and we encourage you to seek out the policy details to inform families before the Parent Information Night. We recommend all participants consider personal COVID-19 travel insurance. As this is a domestic program, Australian residents will be covered by Medicare. Red Earth does not provide insurance for participants or school staff.

Medical Forms

All participants/parents/guardians of participants must complete an online medical form. The login details for your secure online portal will be provided by your Red Earth Relationship Manager after the initial deposits have been paid.

Participant Health

Schools and/or students and/or guardians may be required to declare that participants are in sufficiently good health at the time of travel.

Payment Conditions and Schedule

- At the time of the proposal, the client will be provided with the price of the immersion excluding flights.
- A non-refundable holding deposit of \$10,000 may be required to secure the dates in this proposal if the school cannot pay the deposit within 3 months
- The school has the option to book their own group flights and would be responsible for being at the destination airport at the time indicated on their itinerary in the Proposal.
- Red Earth has pre-existing supplier arrangements and years of experience booking group flights to make the process smooth if you prefer this option.
- An indication of flight prices can be provided, which is only reflective of our experience with group bookings and historic airline pricing.
- If you choose Red Earth to book flights, upon receipt of the 1st deposit, Red Earth will provide you with a quote for flights. Upon confirmation of the quote, Red Earth will secure flight bookings. Flight market prices vary from week to week and Red Earth has no control of locking in a quote with an airline until the week that a deposit is received from the client.
- Occasionally, due to factors outside of Red Earth control, such as flight cancellations, changes to your itinerary may have to be made, which may result in variations to the quoted ground price.

Additional Costs Incurred during the Immersion

- The Client acknowledges that reasonable additional costs may be incurred by Red Earth during the immersion
- Red Earth will advise the Client of any additional costs at the earliest opportunity
- If the additional costs are more than 20% of the Fee paid for one participant, Red Earth will liaise with the Client before incurring those costs
- Any additional costs will be itemised in the form of an invoice from Red Earth to the Client within 30 days of the immersion
- The Client agrees to reimburse Red Earth for additional costs within 30 days of the date of such invoice

Participants will pay the cost of the immersion to their school, which will then pay Red Earth directly. The standard payment schedule below is applicable unless a different schedule has been agreed to by Red Earth prior to the Information Night:

- Initial Deposit - \$1,500.00 per paying participant to secure your group booking within 21 days of the Information Night
- Second payment - \$1,500.00 per paying participant 12 weeks after the deposit due date
- Final Balance - Remainder of the Immersion price (inc Flight Cost if applicable) 8 weeks before immersion commencement.



Inclusions

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Red Earth organises everything from start to finish. The immersion fee includes:

- If you choose Red Earth to book flights: Upon receipt of the 1st deposit Red Earth will provide you with a quote for flights and any applicable accommodation if you choose a Red Eye flight. Upon confirmation of the quote, Red Earth will secure flight bookings for return airfares from a major city to the nearest medium-sized airport. Flight market prices vary from week to week and Red Earth has no control of locking in a quote with an airline until the week that a deposit is received from the client.
- All expenses covered for two school staff in immersion price (ground cost only)
- Two Red Earth staff members to look after the campsite, liaise with the community, uphold safety standards and help lead building and cultural activities
- Use of private, exclusive lands
- All cultural activities led by Traditional Owners, including equipment needed for the activities
- All tourism activities
- All ground transport with experienced drivers for the duration of the immersion
- Camping and cooking equipment
- Spacious tents shared between a maximum of four students (swags in Central Australia)
- A large stretcher bed for each participant (n/a in Central Australia or Lake Mungo)
- Three nutritious meals a day plus snacks
- An information session for the student cohort
- An information evening for students and parents
- Pre-departure sessions facilitated by Red Earth including all material and documentation for travelling students and staff
- An online portal for staff and students with learning resources and information about your immersion
- Red Earth merchandise including a journal, hoodie, and hat
- A comprehensive risk mitigation strategy prepared for the school
- Permits and entry fees
- Insurance for leaders, volunteers and third parties (this does not include insurance for school students and staff)

The following are not included:

- Travel insurance for students (domestic travel is normally covered under your school's policy)
- The money students raise as part of fundraising activities (for a community investment or hands-on project)
- Souvenirs and purchases (including food) made at airports and on flights

Red Earth Cancellation Policy - Ground Costs:

For individual students or groups who choose to cancel for any reason, the following Red Earth cancellation policy applies. This includes (but is not limited to) a group or student not attending due to injury or illness and COVID-19 diagnosis.

- Cancelling between due dates for the Deposit and Second Payment will result in the forfeiture of the deposit amount.
- Cancelling between due dates for the Second Payment and Balance will result in the forfeiture of the deposit plus 50% of the second payment.
- Cancelling between the due date for the Balance and the Date of Departure will result in the forfeiture of the deposit, the second payment and 50% of the final balance.
- Cancelling on or after the Date of Departure, or failing to join the group without notice, will result in the forfeit of 100% of the fee paid.

Red Earth Cancellation Policy - Flight Costs:

- Red Earth will follow the conditions outlined by the airline for your specific airline fares.
- Cancelling between due dates for the Deposit and Final Payment will result in the forfeiture of the airline deposit.
- Cancelling after the Final Payment (8 weeks before travel) will result in the forfeiture of the total fare amount.

Please note changes such as student substitutions, adding new students etc. cannot be made later than 4 weeks prior to departure. Until initial deposit payment is received, costs are subject to change at the discretion of Red Earth.



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